

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 ACDA-07 PM-04 CIAE-00 INR-07

IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 FEAE-00

DODE-00 ERDA-05 SS-15 SP-02 TRSE-00 SSO-00 ERDE-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 H-02 XMB-02 COM-02 /101 W

----- 072618

O R 051510Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5159

INFO AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0525

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PARM TECH SF

SUBJ: KOEBERG NUCLEAR POWER STATION

REF: (A) STATE 108619, (B) STATE 098043

(C) STATE 099278, (D) CAPE TOWN 0464

1. DURING PAST TWO DAYS DFA SECRETARY BRAND FOURIE AND MIN OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS HEUNIS HAVE RAISED WITH ME QUESTION OF WHEN THEY COULD EXPECT TO RECEIVE ASSURANCE CONTAINED IN REFTEL (B) IN WRITING. HEUNIS (WHO OVERSEES ESCOM) MADE CLEAR THAT WITHOUT SUCH WRITTEN ASSURANCES GE-LED CONSORTIUM WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE AWARDED KOEBERG CONTRACT. IN RESPONSE I REPEATED ORAL ASSURANCE AND NOTED THAT I HAD ASKED FOR AUTHORIZATION TO PUT THIS IN WRITING AND I DID NOT ANTICIPATE A PROBLEM IN DOING SO ALTHOUGH IT MIGHT TAKE A LITTLE TIME TO OBTAIN THE AUTHORIZATION. NEITHER FOURIE NOR HEUNIS MENTIONED SPECIFIC DEADLINE FOR WRITTEN ASSURANCE BUT INDICATED THAT DECISION ON CONTRACT WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE.

2. WHILE IT IS HARD TO ASSESS THE ELEMENT OF BLUFF IN SAG

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PRESSURE FOR WRITTEN ASSURANCE, MY ASSESSMENT IS THAT THEY

ARE SERIOUS ABOUT NO ASSURANCE - NO CONTRACT. I DO NOT
KNOW ALL THE FACTORS IN DEPARTMENT'S THINKING ON TIMING
FOR WRITTEN ASSURANCE, BUT HAVING GONE AS FAR AS WE HAVE
ORALLY FOR US NOW TO DELAY THE WRITTEN TOO LONG WILL AROUSE
SAG SUSPICION OF VALIDITY OF OUR ORAL ASSURANCES AND COULD
JEOPARDIZE AWARD OF CONTRACT TO GE-LED CONSORTIUM.

3. IF FACTORS IN DELAY ARE NRC LICENSE AND/OR UNCERTAINTY
OF CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL FOR EX-IM GUARANTEE, WE WONDER
WHETHER WRITTEN ASSURANCE COULD BE PROVIDED WITH THESE
CONDITIONS.

4. IN MEANTIME WE WILL REPEAT ORAL ASSURANCES TO SMITH
PRIOR TO MAY 7 ESCOM BOARD MEETING AS SUGGESTED IN REFTL (A).
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

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